

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SAM EMERSON,

Plaintiff,

- against -

TELEPICTURES PRODUCTIONS INC.

Defendant.

Docket No. 1:19-cv-4247

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Sam Emerson (“Emerson” or “Plaintiff”) by and through his undersigned counsel, as and for his Complaint against Defendant Telepictures Productions Inc. (“Telepictures” or “Defendant”) hereby alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for copyright infringement under Section 501 of the Copyright Act. This action arises out of Defendant’s unauthorized reproduction and public display of a copyrighted photograph of Dick Clark and Michael Jackson, owned and registered by Emerson, a professional photographer. Accordingly, Emerson seeks monetary relief under the Copyright Act of the United States, as amended, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This claim arises under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, and this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant resides in and/or transacts business in New York.

4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

PARTIES

5. Emerson is a professional photographer in the business of licensing his Photograph to online and print media for a fee having a usual place of business at 1205 St. Charles Avenue, #1101, New Orleans, LA 70130.

6. Upon information and belief, Telepictures is a foreign business corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with place of business a 1325 6th Avenue, New York, New York 10019. Upon information and belief, Telepictures is registered with the New York State Department of Corporations to do business in New York. At all times material, hereto, Telepictures has owned and operated a website at the URL: www.ExtraTV.com (the “Website”).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Background and Plaintiff’s Ownership of the Photograph

7. Emerson photographed Dick Clark and Michael Jackson (the “Photograph”). A true and correct copy of the Photograph is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

8. Emerson is the author of the Photograph and has at all times been the sole owner of all right, title and interest in and to the Photograph, including the copyright thereto.

9. The Photograph was registered with the United States Copyright Office and was given registration number VA 2-105-101.

B. Defendant’s Infringing Activities

10. Telepictures ran a slideshow on the Website entitled *Remembering Dick Clark*. The slideshow featured the Photograph. See URL: <http://extratv.com/photos/d49b819e-571f-5d57-b9df-e251eed5d684>. A screenshot of the Photograph on the Website is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

11. Telepictures did not license the Photograph from Plaintiff for its slideshow, nor did Telepictures have Plaintiff's permission or consent to publish the Photograph on its Website.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT AGAINST DEFENDANT)
(17 U.S.C. §§ 106, 501)

12. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-11 above.

13. Telepictures infringed Plaintiff's copyright in the Photograph by reproducing and publicly displaying the Photograph on the Website. Telepictures is not, and has never been, licensed or otherwise authorized to reproduce, publically display, distribute and/or use the Photograph.

14. The acts of Defendant complained of herein constitute infringement of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright in violation of Sections 106 and 501 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106 and 501.

15. Upon information and belief, the foregoing acts of infringement by Defendant have been willful, intentional, and purposeful, in disregard of and indifference to Plaintiff's rights.

16. As a direct and proximate cause of the infringement by the Defendant of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to damages and Defendant's profits pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b) for the infringement.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

1. That Defendant Telepictures be adjudged to have infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrights in the Photograph in violation of 17 U.S.C §§ 106 and 501;

2. That Plaintiff be awarded Plaintiff's actual damages and Defendant's profits, gains or advantages of any kind attributable to Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's Photograph;
3. That Defendant be required to account for all profits, income, receipts, or other benefits derived by Defendant as a result of its unlawful conduct;
4. That Plaintiff be awarded punitive damages for copyright infringement;
5. That Plaintiff be awarded attorney's fees and costs;
6. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest; and
7. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Dated: Valley Stream, New York
May 9, 2019

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